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Totten Writes About The Failure Of The Great Garvey Movement.

FOLLOWERS OF ORGANIZATION IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, SHOULD CAREFULLY STUDY WHAT MAKES GOOD LEADERSHIP, BY THE LESSON IT TEACHES.

By ASHLEY L. TOTTEN.
New York City.

(Concluded from yesterday's Avis.)

Though one might deduct their own conclusions as to just what all this meant, yet it served to no great harm to those on the outside who regarded it as a source of great amusement. But others who had invested their money into the business end of it, and especially the many poor hardworking scrub-women who in their admiration for Garvey could not see their mistakes, there was another view to the situation.

The parades, and maintenance of an elaborate army was an extravagance that ate up thousands of dollars.

The Black Star Line, a dismal failure at the very start, went more rapidly to its doom, when Garvey refused to allow his ship to bring cargo for any white concern.

(I write this with emphasis, because it is the same stupid blunder being made in recent years, why the Virgin Islands are face to face with starvation now.)

Garvey went further. He occupied the Madison Square Garden in the heart of New York, for the specific purpose of hurling ABUSE at the WHITE RACE, and suggested that a WHITE MAN be

lynched in Africa, for every Negro lynched in America.

Right here he sowed the seed for his own downfall and contributed to certain hardships that threatened to hurt the colored people of this country. Several places began closing their doors of employment against persons whom they suspected were connected with this movement, and the Federal Government began its slow grinding, seeking some loophole with which to convict him.

And so, while there are few persons who believe Garvey ever robbed a penny from anyone, he nevertheless has to serve five years in the Federal Jail, and pay a fine of one thousand dollars, unless an appeal is granted, and a jury will find him not guilty at a second trial.

While in confinement, Garvey makes the sacrifice, not for his race as many contend, but for the crooks and scoundrels whom he entrusted with the responsibility of management, and who used all kinds of methods to fleece the public.

We take for an instance his paper the Negro World, whose columns were distributed free to thousands in the islands, so that they might see the display of gallantry in the writer attacking the present form of government, and the naval personnel there.

I had the pleasure of taking the matter up with Garvey myself, and asked why was it that his paper only printed one side of the story and only from the writer's viewpoint, and I also inquired by what right he took all other correspondence on the islands and turned it over to this writer. It was then that I learned that these things were done without his knowledge or consent, and so cleverly

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that it had taken him months trying to trace who on his editorial staff was responsible, with no results.

As the space necessary to publish these articles must cost quite some money in any American newspaper, one may judge just what Garvey's experience must be in dealing with men of a similar type whom he entrusted in other departments.

In conclusion, I believe that the race has nothing to rejoice over in the sad plight of Marcus Garvey. As a man who stood by the courage of his convictions, and believed that there lies the dawn of a very great future for his race, he stands supreme.

His mistake lies in the fact that he is selfish, for he denounced any movement applicable to the race, as inferior to his. He stood on a haughty platform that could not be equalled by any dictator of olden times.

He hated the white man, and could not see that the annual salary of ten thousand dollars which he earned from the sweat of his followers, was made possible through work provided by the very WHITES whom he despised.

Garvey believed that he held a mandate over the destinies of all colored people in the Virgin Islands, and thousands of dollars from the pocket books of Virgin Islanders sank with the Black Star Line.

In this lies the great lesson of a misguided people so easily convinced that the redemption of Africa meant so much more to them, than the starvation that faces mothers, sisters, brothers, directly akin to them in the land that gave them birth.